



Governor Steve Beshear's **HIGHER EDUCATION WORK GROUP**

Governor's Higher Education Workgroup Affordability Subcommittee

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

For Immediate Action

1. Develop a plan for a comprehensive, one-stop, consumer-friendly Web site for prospective college students, bringing together all college affordability and access resources. Special sections of the site should address the needs of military families, adults returning to school, and transfer students.
2. Provide more transparency to incoming students on what college will actually cost, including tuition, room and board, textbooks, transportation, and other incidentals.
 - a. Better distinguish for students and their parents between the published cost of attendance ("sticker price") and the actual cost most students pay for their education
 - b. Develop a standardized methodology for public universities to use when calculating total cost of attendance.
 - c. Require the CPE and institutions to supply appropriate college cost and expenditure data to the state's new e-transparency Web site, Open Door Kentucky. This information should also be included on the one-stop college affordability Web site, college Web sites, and other publications aimed at prospective college students.
3. Declare February as college access month in Kentucky as part of a Governor-led public service campaign, bringing public attention to the importance of a college education and the state and federal resources that make college affordable.
4. Develop a partnership among the state, postsecondary institutions, and the business and civic communities to provide assistance to students and families in filling out the FAFSA and accessing state and Federal grants and tax credits. To help implement this recommendation, pilot a college access corps, which involves college students and recent college graduates in mentoring high school

students, particularly those from low-income families. This may include use of social networking tools.

5. Charge the Council on Postsecondary Education to work with public universities, KCTCS, independent colleges and universities, and state agencies to increase collaboration and participation in consortia and other joint agreements to contain costs and increase the purchasing power on various goods and services regularly purchased by postsecondary education institutions.
6. Encourage public colleges and universities to expand campus employment opportunities for students, helping them contribute to the cost of their education.
7. Provide more high school students with an opportunity to participate in online, tuition-free dual credit programs.
8. Require all Kentucky resident full- and part-time students to submit a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) as a condition of receipt of all institutional, state, and federal need and merit-based financial aid, including tuition waivers.
9. Urge Congress and the Federal Government to greatly simplify the FAFSA form and pledge that in return, Kentucky's postsecondary institutions and state financial aid agency will not adopt additional forms or requirements for need-based aid.
10. Prohibit the practice of scholarship stacking, limiting financial aid awards to the total cost of attendance.
11. Explore strategies to better manage the rising cost of textbooks and promote greater transparency and predictability for students and families around textbook costs. (This recommendation will be more fully developed in the recommendations from the student advisory committee).
12. Encourage businesses to provide educational benefits (i.e. tuition remission, contributions to college saving accounts, workplace college-level education offerings) to their employees.
13. Ensure that hours earned through credit by exam options (i.e. CLEP) are accepted by public postsecondary institutions. CLEP, used extensively by military personnel and other adult learners, is a low cost alternative to rising college tuition and can accelerate time to degree.

Recommended studies for purposes of September 1 report:

1. Undertake a comprehensive review of Kentucky's state financial aid programs to assure that the system adequately meets the financial needs of Kentucky students; is transparent and well understood; is predictable and relatively simple; rewards academic success and degree completion; does not unduly saddle students with debt after college; encourages development and participation in innovative program delivery; promotes choice among institutions, public and private; and provides students and families early in a student's K-12 career with a clear assurance that funding will be made available.
2. Conduct a thorough review of time and credit to degree issues, with recommendations for getting more students to graduate in four years and within their program's credit hour requirements. Review strategies to encourage acceleration through the system including dual enrollment, open entry/open exit, online courses and completion in less than usual program time.
3. Identify efficiencies that could be achieved among affordability and outreach programs at various state agencies, with recommendations for streamlining functions, programs and services.
4. Conduct a comprehensive study of the transferability of credits, from two- to four-year programs and among the four-year institutions.